



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**  
Carl Vinson  
Institute of Government



## PROPEL Rural Scholars

UGA students from across disciplines are working with Public Service and Outreach mentors and community leaders to help increase opportunities for economic success in rural counties through PROPEL (Planning Rural Opportunities for Prosperity and Economic Leadership). [Read more here](#)



## Branding the Sweet Onion City

Communities are increasingly using brand strategy to attract talent and compete for new residents, jobs, industry and funding. The Institute of Government's Kaitlin Messich led Vidalia through a yearlong branding process that captures its status as The Sweet Onion City. "The biggest challenge was getting the onion right. People are passionate about it," she said. [Read more here](#)



## Byars wins PSO Staff Award

James Byars, interim manager of the Institute of Government's data analysis and visualization unit, received the 2023 Public Service and Outreach Staff Award for his work creating reliable, accessible data to support projections and plans for the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, the University System of Georgia (USG) and other clients. [Read more here](#)

# IN THE NEWS

## Cities United Summit features Institute of Government training

City officials from across the state received professional training from Institute of Government faculty at the Cities United Summit earlier this year in Atlanta. Held in partnership with the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), Institute of Government faculty taught 29 classes to 1,311 registrants, including mayors, council members, city staff and other officials. Classes were offered through the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute, a continuing education program developed by the Institute of Government and GMA. Participants also received state government updates at the Capitol Connection Breakfast, and 133 municipal officials were recognized with certificates at an awards luncheon.

## University System hosts Georgia Degrees Pay website



The University System of Georgia has launched Georgia Degrees Pay, a website featuring tools developed by the Institute of Government in collaboration with members of the USG Research and Policy Analysis and Communications teams. Designed to help students and families work through critical decisions about college affordability and value, the website provides an array of public data on Georgia's 26 public colleges

and universities and allows comparisons about the overall cost to attend college, majors and fields of study, average student borrowing and average career earnings of USG graduates.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### UPCOMING EVENTS AND CLASSES

#### Developing Data Analytics Capabilities Conference

April 26-27

Athens

#### Georgia Government Management Information Sciences (GA GMIS) Conference

April 29-May 4

Athens

#### Georgia Association of Tax Officials (GATO)

May 8-11

Athens

[More events here](#)

### Financial Training opportunities



The Institute of Government collaborates with the Georgia Government Finance Officers Association to offer certification for local government workers. John Hulsey, faculty and program director, describes the multilevel training [here](#).

## AROUND THE INSTITUTE

## USDA and UGA Foundation provide support for rural Georgia



Thanks to funding from U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development and the University of Georgia Foundation, the Institute of Government is expanding efforts to support rural communities in Georgia. The \$249,980 USDA award and the UGA Foundation gift will allow for three new counties – Baldwin, Ben Hill and Burke – to participate in PROPEL (Planning Rural Opportunities for Prosperity and Economic Leadership), a program launched last year.

## Public Service and Outreach faculty honored for securing grants



UGA Vice President of Public Service and Outreach Dr. Jennifer Frum recognized faculty members Shana Jones, Greg Wilson and Tom Bliss of Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant with the Award of Excellence in Grants and Sponsored Programs at a ceremony last fall. The grants they secured provide the unit with more resources and opportunities to solve critical statewide challenges.

# DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know Georgia's workforce is rapidly aging, with the percentage of the population age 65 and over projected to continue growing over the next several decades? That's just one of several compelling data points illustrated in the 2022 Georgia Workforce Pipeline Snapshot. The graphically engaging tool (when laminated, about the size of a Waffle House menu) is a go-to resource for people in industries across the state. To download a copy, visit [here](#).

# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

# You belong at the Institute of Government!

Come join our team of dedicated professionals committed to excellence in government through training, research and policy analysis. Visit [cvioq.uga.edu](http://cvioq.uga.edu) for more information.



# **Dawg Day of Giving: March 30**



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